



The Draisine, About 1816

Historical Pictures Service



Pierre Lallement's Pedal-Powered Bicycle, 1866

Historical Pictures Service



High-Wheeler, Late 1800's

Historical Pictures Service



Safety Bicycle, 1893

Culver

tires. Other improvements about this time included the coaster brake and adjustable handle bars. Early forms of the modern bicycle gear shift came into use soon after 1900.

By 1897, about 4 million Americans were riding bicycles regularly, more than at any previous time. Then, during the early 1900's, the rapid development of the automobile caused many people to lose interest in bicycles.

**Bicycle Riding Today.** In the early 1970's, bicycle riding in the United States became more popular than ever before. About 75 million Americans were riding bikes. Many cities established special lanes called *bike-ways* for cyclists in parks and on streets.

Several organizations work to promote long-distance bike trips. One of these groups, American Youth Hostels, Inc., plans bicycle trips for young people and provides inexpensive lodging for them throughout the United States. The International Youth Hostel Federation encourages cooperation among youth hostel associations throughout the world.

EUGENE A. SLOANE

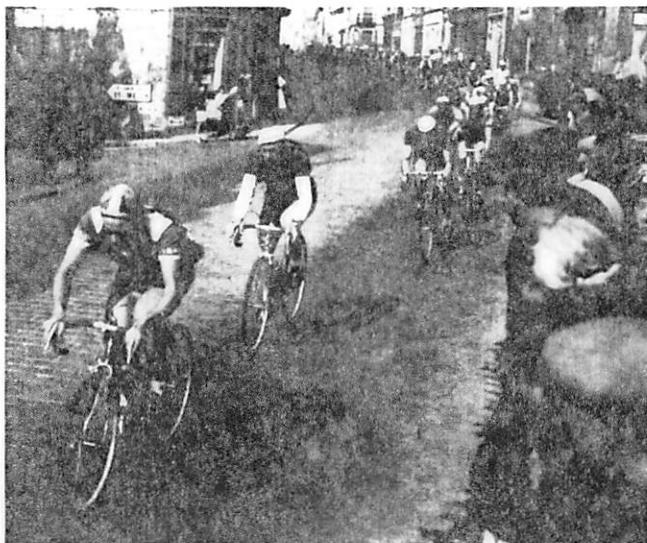
See also BICYCLE RACING; NETHERLANDS (picture: Bicycle Riding); JINRIKISHA; PEDICAB.

**BICYCLE RACING** is a popular sport in almost every country. It has been an event—called *cycling*—of the Olympic Games since 1896. In the United States, the Amateur Bicycle League of America sponsors organized bicycle racing in almost every state. There are two chief kinds of bicycle races—track races and road races.

**Track Races**, the most popular bike races, are contests between two individuals or teams. The racers compete on oval tracks that are  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile (0.2 to 0.4 kilometer) long. The track slopes inward at a steep angle at each end.

A track bicycle has no gears nor brakes. The cyclist slows or stops his bike by pushing back on the pedals and grasping the front wheel with a gloved hand.

Bicycle track races can be run (1) for specified dis-



Wide World

Racers in the Annual Paris-to-Brussels Bicycle Race pedal away from the starting point on the outskirts of Paris.

## BICYCLE SAFETY RULES

(DO'S):



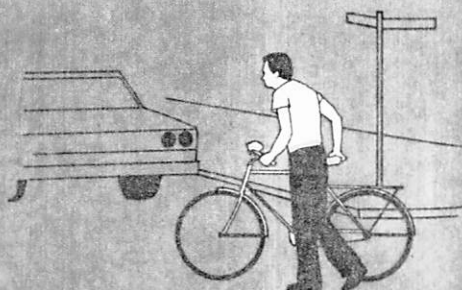
Left turn



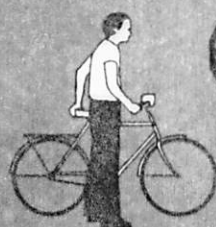
Right turn



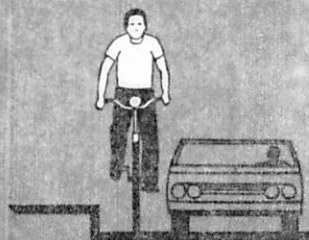
Stop or slow



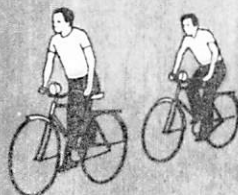
Walk Across Busy Intersections



Obey Traffic Signs



Keep to the Right



Ride in Single File

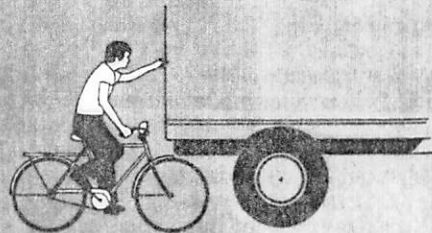
(DON'TS):



Don't Ride Double



Don't Stunt



Don't Hitch Rides

WORLD BOOK Illustration

When riding in the street, he should stay on the right side of the road. Wise cyclists never race, stunt, or hold on to another vehicle. Nor do they carry passengers on a bicycle built for one rider only.

**Equipment and Care.** The Consumer Product Safety Commission requires bicycles sold in the United States to have certain safety features. For example, they must be equipped with reflectors on the front, rear, and pedals. Bikes must also have reflective sidewalls on the tires or reflectors on the spokes.

Safety experts recommend that riders attach a horn or bell to their bikes. Cyclists should keep all the parts of their bikes clean and properly lubricated. The brakes must always be in good condition, and the tires should be inflated with the right air pressure.

## History

**Early Bicycles.** The first bicycle, a wooden scooter-like vehicle called a *célérifère*, was invented about 1790

by Comte Mede de Sivrac of France. About 1816, Baron Karl von Drais of Germany invented an improved model called a *draisine*. It had a steering bar connected to the front wheel. A Scottish blacksmith, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, added foot pedals to the *draisine* in 1839. Pierre Lallement, a French carriage maker, took out the first U.S. patent on a pedal bicycle in 1866.

In the 1870's, a new type of bicycle called the *high-wheeler* or *penny-farthing* appeared. It had a huge front wheel and a small rear wheel. The front wheel of some models was 5 feet (1.5 meters) high. Each turn of the pedals turned the big wheel around once, so the bike traveled a long distance on each turn of the pedals.

About 1885, J. K. Starley of England produced the first commercially successful *safety bicycle*. The safety bicycle had wheels of the same size, which made it easier and safer to ride than a high-wheeler. Pedals drove the rear wheel by means of a chain and sprockets, as they do on today's bikes. By 1890, bikes had air-filled rubber